

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 14637 191221Z

55

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-02 NSC-10 NSCE-00 SNM-02 PRS-01

USIA-04 H-01 DRC-01 /063 W

----- 004036

R 190907Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6685

INFO AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 14637

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, PNS, TH, BM

SUBJECT: BURMESE DISSIDENTS REPORTEDLY SEEK RTG
MEDIATION

REF: A. STATE 182553, B. USINFO 131441Z SEP 73 C. BANGKOK 13274

SUMMARY: RECENT NEWSPAPER ARTICLES QUOTING "HIGHLY
AUTHORITATIVE SOURCES" CLAIM THAT TWO BURMESE DISSIDENT
GROUPS--THE KAREN AND THE SHAN--HAVE ASKED THE RTG TO
MEDIATE BETWEEN THEMSELVES AND THE GUB. THESE OFFERS,
IF SUBSTANTIATED, MAY INDICATE THAT THE REBELS ARE
LOSING GROUND TO THE GUB. THE SHAN APPROACH COULD
BE PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT. HAVING FAILED IN SEEKING
USG ASSISTANCE TO EXCHANGE OPIUM FOR USG SUPPORT OF
THE REBEL CAUSE (REF A), THE SHAN NOW MAY BE
TESTING OUT THE THAI. END SUMMARY.

1. BO MYA, LEADER OF BURMA'S KAREN DISSIDENT GROUP, WAS RE-
PORTED IN THE SEPTEMBER 10 "THE NATION" AS SEEKING RTG MEDIA-
TION BETWEEN HIS GROUP AND THE GUB. QUOTING "HIGHLY AUTHORI-
TATIVE SOURCES," THE ARTICLE SAID THAT BO MYA WROTE TO DEPUTY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BANGKO 14637 191221Z

FOREIGN MINISTER CHARTCHAI CHUNHAWAN A LETTER THAT HAD BEEN

PASSED TO "HIGHER AUTHORITIES" IN THE RTG. THE LETTER IS REPORTED TO HAVE ASKED FOR RTG ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GUB. BO MYA DENIED THIS PRESS ACCOUNT IN A LETTER WHICH WAS REPRINTED IN THE SEPTEMBER 17 ISSUE OF "THE NATION." A WELL-PLACED MFA OFFICIAL TOLD US THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO CONTACT BETWEEN CHARTCHAI AND BO MYA IN OFFICIAL FOREIGN MINISTRY CHANNELS. HE DID NOT DISCOUNT, HOWEVER, THE POSSIBILITY THAT AN APPROACH HAD BEEN MADE DIRECTLY TO CHARTCHAI. HE FURTHER SAID THAT BO MYA WAS PRESENTLY IN BANGKOK. WE WOULD GUESS THAT THE KAREN WOULD HAVE BEEN EQUALLY AS LIKELY TO HAVE APPROACHED THE SUPREME COMMAND AS THE MFA.

2. SHAN LEADERS WERE ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE APPROACHED THE RTG ABOUT ESTABLISHING NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GUB. AN ARTICLE IN "THE NATION" ON SEPTEMBER 12 SAID THAT A LEADER OF THE SHAN REBELS, WHO HAD RECENTLY BEEN IN BANGKOK, APPROACHED AN RTG OFFICIAL. THE ARTICLE SAID THAT THE SHAN LEADER'S PROPOSAL, THAT THE RTG MEDIATE TALKS BETWEEN THE REBELS AND THE GUB, WOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

3. COMMENT: THIS STORY SEEMS TO BE RELATED TO THE RECENT APPROACH OF AN ENGLISHMAN, REPRESENTING SHAN LEADERS, TO CONGRESSMAN WOLFF PROPOSING THAT IN EXCHANGE FOR \$12 MILLION AND U.S. SUPPORT, THE SHANS WOULD DESTROY 400 TONS OF OPIUM AND CEASE TRAFFICKING (REF A AND B). THIS STORY RECEIVED WIDE COVERAGE IN THE BANGKOK PRESS STARTING SEPTEMBER 16. SINCE THE USG HAS CLEARLY SAID IT WILL NOT DEAL WITH THE DISSIDENTS DIRECTLY, THE SHAN MAY NOW BE TURNING TO THE THAI.

4. THESE REPORTED FEELERS BY BURMESE DISSIDENTS, WHICH ARE IN LINE WITH ADRIAN COWELL'S COMMENTS TO DCM (REF C), MAY INDICATE THAT MILITARY PRESSURE FROM GUB AND COMMUNIST FORCES, AS WELL AS FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES THE SHAN ARE ENCOUNTERING IN DISPOSING OF OPIUM HOLDINGS, HAVE MADE THE REBEL POSITIONS INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT. PERHAPS EMBASSY RANGOON CAN SHED ADDITIONAL LIGHT ON THESE PROSPECTS.

UNGER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, OPIUM, DRUG TRAFFIC, DRUG CONTROL, FOREIGN RELATIONS, POLITICAL STABILITY, DISSIDENT FACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BANGKO14637
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS UNGER
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730925/aaaaaslx.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: A. STATE 182553, B. USINFO 131441Z S, EP 73 C. BANGKOK 13274
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14-Nov-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <27-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BURMESE DISSIDENTS REPORTEDLY SEEK RTG MEDIATION
TAGS: SNAR, PINS, TH, BM, THE KAREN, THE SHAN, (WOLFF)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005